



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notice

For Immediate Release – November 5, 2012
Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

Swale East Three Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Swale East Three Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park on Wednesday, November 7, weather and air quality conditions permitting.

This segment is 297 acres and ignitions should take two-three days. Two segments of this project were completed last fall.

This project is west of Highway 180 and the Azalea and Sunset Campgrounds, north and east of the South Boundary Trail, and south of the Grant Tree Road.

Giant sequoias are fire adapted and thrive in naturally cycling fire. Fire opens the cones, and releases the tiny seeds to the nutrient rich ash and mineral soil below—ideal conditions for this tree's germination. Fire thins competing vegetation and trees and opens the canopy for this sun-loving species. Sequoias have a thick, fire-resistant bark that protects them from the frequent fire cycle in the Sierra Nevada.

Most of the area was first burned in 1996. Historically, natural fires occurred in sequoia forests approximately once every 10-15 years. A regular fire cycle improves forest health by reducing the amount of dead, woody debris that can lead to larger, more intense fires.

Portions of the South Boundary Trail, the Sunset Trail, and the Ella Trail will be closed for this prescribed burn. See the attached map for details.

Visitors may experience temporary delays due to traffic control from smoke across Highway 180 and the Grant Tree Road. Please drive with lights on, obey posted speed limits, and keep alert for firefighters on the road near fire operations.

Fire managers work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts. However, visitors and residents of Grant Grove, Wilsonia, and Sequoia Lake should anticipate smoke from this project, especially in the late evening and morning hours when inversion patterns that hold the smoke in the valleys. For more information about how to limit exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>.

-- NPS--